

Veterans Memorial Museum

"They Shall Not Be Forgotten"

May 4, 2014

Museum Director

Charles "Chip"
Duncan, Director

Board of Directors

W. Stan Baker
President

William "Bill" Logan
Vice President

Dale Ingle
Secretary

Lee Grimes
Treasurer

Pete Slempa
Board Member

Darrell Holt
Board Member

Dear Fellow Vietnam Veterans,

This summer is the 50th Anniversary of the Gulf of Tonkin incident, which is considered to be the beginning of the Vietnam War. In recognition of this, the Veterans Memorial Museum in Chehalis, Washington, is hosting "The Traveling Wall" from July 31st – August 3rd, 2014.

The mission of the Veterans Memorial Museum is to honor and preserve the memory of the service men and women who have served in our nation's armed forces. Our goal is that "They shall not be forgotten." To accomplish our mission and goal, several remembrance day events are held each year, including one for Vietnam veterans. This year's event will be larger than usual with 6 special programs during the time The Wall is on site.

On Saturday, August 2nd we will have two special programs with nationally-known guest speakers.

At 11:00 AM we will "*Recognize those who returned*". This is our traditional program featuring a Vietnam veteran relating their personal experiences and the recognition of the veterans in the audience. This year Maj. John Plaster (Ret.) will be our keynote speaker. Plaster was a Staff Sergeant in Vietnam where he served 3 tours as part of MACV-SOG's top secret reconnaissance effort in Laos and Cambodia. On his third tour he was asked to join an elite team of Covey Riders. These men were former Recon Leaders who were known to be "Cool under Pressure". John's job was to help the teams that got in trouble, talking them into a safe place or to an extraction site. John covered the teams and the Covey pilot controlled all the air assets that were needed to protect and extract the compromised teams. John will bring some interesting observations about the war in general and a different perspective on the many jobs conducted in Vietnam. For more details on John Plaster, Google his name and/or his name and MACV-SOG. He has written several books on SOG and on snipers and will be available for book signing and conversation after the presentation.

100 SW Veterans Way
Chehalis, Washington 98532
(360) 740-8875

Web Site: www.veteransmuseum.org
E-mail vmm@compprime.com

At 4:00 PM we will “*Honor those who did not return*”. The keynote speaker will be J.A. Jance, a popular mystery writer, who recently wrote a book that featured a small unit commander who died in Vietnam. At the end of the book the reader learns that the story was not completely fiction but based on real people. J.A. Jance will be joined by Lt. Lewis’ fiancé, Bonnie Abney, to tell the touching story and how it has affected so many people. Also participating in the program will be Seattle artist Michael Reagan, who has done over 3700 drawings of men and women killed in combat. Google Michael Reagan or “Fallen Heroes Project” for more information. After the program Ms. Jance will be available to sign her books (which will be available for purchase) and Ms. Abney and Mr. Reagan will also be available for conversation in the Event Center.

Programs on the other days include:

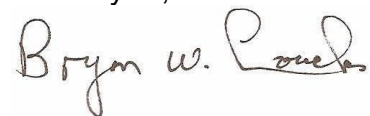
- Thursday at 4:00 p.m. **Laying of the Wreaths** by veteran and service groups.
- Friday at 6:00 p.m. **Opening Ceremonies**. Retired Air Force pilot Travis Wofford will relate the story of a very close call he experienced in Vietnam.
- Sunday at 9:00 a.m. **Church Service** will be conducted by Army retired Chaplain Stan Baker like it was done during his 2 tours of Vietnam
- Sunday 1:00 p.m. **Closing Ceremonies**. COL Ron Averill, Retired, will talk from his unusual perspective as one of the last to leave Saigon in 1973. He will also give some comments on the Wall and those who we will have just spent 4 days honoring for their sacrifice.

With the combination of The Wall and the special programs, we hope to make this event especially meaningful for Vietnam veterans and their families. We welcome you to attend as many of the events as you can.

The Veterans Memorial Museum is located just off Exit 77 of I-5, about 77 miles north of Portland and 87 miles south of Seattle. For more information, visit the Museum web site at www.veteransmuseum.org or call 360-740-8875. Lewis County has many other attractions that can be visited if you come from out of town. Click the “Local Interest” tab on the Museum web page for details.

Anything you can do to publicize this event to members of your organization will be greatly appreciated. As the event draws nearer, we will send you a digital poster for the event.

Thank you,



Bryon W. Loucks
Vietnam Veteran and Museum Volunteer
loucks@localaccess.com, 360-736-2147